its shattered structure and act, but it could not, even though, to compensate for Germany's withdrawal, the U.S.S.R. became a member. Plebiscites and elections conducted in Germany were clearly absurd; in the Saarland, with a plebiscite conducted under the League's auspices, surely the result would be different, but it was not. There, too, ninety per cent obediently voted in favour of incorporation in the Reich.

Though it was known that Germany was rearming, by the terms of the Treaty of Versailles conscription could not be introduced, but it was, and soon afterwards an Anglo-German Naval Agreement concluded, whereby a thirty-five per cent ratio in all categories of ships except submarines was fixed; this agreement, too, like the one whose renunciation it celebrated in due course renounced. If now the Treaty of Versailles must be regarded as no more operative, Hitler himself had solemnly announced that he regarded the Locarno Treaty as still binding. Ends of cigars smoked by Briand, Sir Austen Chamberlain and Stresemann when it was negotiated, were still piously preserved; the pen with which it was signed, still extant, and the garter presented to Sir Austen to mark the occasion, sometimes apparent on his calf, until calf and garter both vanished from sight. That instrument surely might be relied on, but could not. Hitler announced to the Reichstag that even while he was speaking, German troops were marching into the demilitarised Rhineland, and would at once begin the con-struction of fortifications there.

Each stage in this process was marked by solemn protests,

diplomatic notes, conferences, appeals to the League, statements of policy, editorial fulmination, heated parliamentary debates and questions, agitated coming and going of politicians, discussion both private and public, both spoken and written. Like frightened householders who hear a burglar below, the British and French Governments discussed what preventative measures they should take, picked up a poker and then put it down again, shouted downstairs that if the burglar did not make off, they would fall upon him, or at least call the police; even considered